

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-34 were previously pending in this application. Claims 1-8 and 11-34 have been amended herein. Applicants submit no new matter has been added by this Amendment.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1-34 have been rejected under a non-statutory double-patenting rejection over claims 1-48 of co-pending Application No. 10/116,924. More specifically, the Office Action indicates that the instant application and the co-pending application "are [allegedly] claiming common subject matter, as follows:"

Pending Claims	Copending Claim that would be covered
1-5, 19, 21, 23, 24-29	7, 12, 14
6-13	9, 24, 26
14, 15	13, 14
16-18, 20, 22, 30-34	13, 26
30	43

(See, Office Action, page 3, ¶1).

Applicants respectfully submit that in light of the July 22 Amendment, the rejections have been rendered moot. Specifically, please see the Amendment and Response filed July 22, 2004 in co-

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Amendment dated September 13, 2004
Reply to Office Action dated June 14, 2004
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pending application 10/116,924. Accordingly, Applicants request withdrawal of this ground of rejections.

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CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

AUTHORIZATION

No petitions or additional fees are believed due for this amendment and/or any accompanying submissions. However, to the extent that any additional fees and/or petition is required, including a petition for extension of time, Applicants hereby petition the Commissioner to grant such petition, and hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge any additional fees, including any fees which may be required for such petition, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500 (Order No. 1232-4835). **A DUPLICATE COPY OF THIS SHEET IS ENCLOSED.**

An early and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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